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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,

MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES

BRIEFING

EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Zana 'quake' in Diyarbakir - Sabah
FM Gul: Years in prison have 'matured' DEP lawmakers - Aksam
DEHAP: PKK members should be allowed into politics -
Hurriyet 6/13
DEHAP: We are at equal distance from Turkish government, PKK
- Milliyet 6/13
PM Erdogan: We are Muslims who take a middle way - Sabah
Center-right boom in Europe - Hurriyet
Blair won't resign despite defeat in local elections -
Milliyet 6/13
Voters kick Blair - Aksam 6/13

OPINION MAKERS

PM Erdogan: Arafat missed peace opportunity - Zaman
'Time for peace,' Zana tells the PKK - Radikal
DEHAP calls for cease fire - Cumhuriyet
Al-Qaeda targets Americans in Saudi Arabia - Radikal
Bloody Sunday in Iraq: 21 killed - Yeni Safak
First assassination against new Iraqi government -
Cumhuriyet 6/13
Turkish police prepare for NATO Istanbul Summit - Yeni Safak
100,000 signatures against NATO Summit - Cumhuriyet
OIC gives Turkey many promises, little support - Cumhuriyet
Moscow may change Cyprus policy - Cumhuriyet 6/13
Bosnian Serb government admits Srebrenica killings - Radikal
6/13

BRIEFING

PM Erdogan visits US: Prime Minister Erdogan asked the US to keep its word to eliminate the PKK/Kongra-Gel presence in northern Iraq. Erdogan told American Jewish groups in Washington that his recent criticism of Israeli policies toward the Palestinians is not directed against the state of Israel, but at PM Ariel Sharon's government. Erdogan asserted that Turkey's political and economic relations with Israel will continue. Erdogan criticized Arafat for missing a significant opportunity for peace during the time of former Israeli PM Barak. 'Arafat should not have left the negotiating table, and Barak should not have withdrawn from politics,' he said. Erdogan added that 'the peace process requires a great effort.' He urged Arafat not to stand in the way of peace. 'The issue can be resolved between the two peoples,' Erdogan said.

Freed Kurdish MPs in Diyarbakir: Four Kurdish ex-MPs -- Leyla Zana, Hatip Dicle, Selim Sadak and Orhan Dogan -- went to the mainly Kurdish city of Diyarbakir over the weekend, where they were given a warm welcome by tens of thousands of local citizens. Zana called on the PKK to extend its unilateral cease-fire by at least six months, and to continue efforts for peace with the 'brotherly Turkish people.' 'This country must not be turned into another Palestine, Lebanon or Yugoslavia,' Zana said. Dicle described the suffering in the region, and urged 'new legal arrangements' that could end the armed conflict. 'The 5,000 Kurds now in prison should be allowed to contribute to the peace process,' Dicle stressed. He also noted that if the necessary conditions are established, imprisoned PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan could become the 'architect of peace.' Over the weekend Tuncer Bakirhan, chairman of the pro-Kurdish DEHAP party, which faces possible closure for alleged ties with the PKK, called on PKK militants to lay down their arms and resume their five-year cease-fire. Bakirhan called on the Turkish government to declare an unconditional general amnesty. The mayor of Diyarbakir, Osman Baydemir, said a lasting peace in the region is possible now that the four former pro-Kurdish lawmakers have been freed.
Congressman Wexler, Ambassador Edelman meet lawmakers: US Ambassador to Ankara, Eric Edelman, and Congressman Robert

Wexler paid a 'surprise' visit to members of the parliamentary foreign relations committee last week, "Hurrriyet" reports. Wexler told the Turkish lawmakers that a vessel loaded with heavy weaponry that was stopped by Turkish police on the Bosphorus last week was not going to Egypt as announced, but rather to Gaza. Wexler responded to AK Party lawmakers who hold Sharon responsible for the unrest in Palestine by saying that terror has always existed in the region. Some CHP lawmakers urged Wexler to help postpone the US-sponsored 'Greater Middle East Initiative' due to objections by some Arab states. Wexler said that such a postponement would not be possible.

OIC Istanbul Summit: Ankara is hoping that the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) will back its candidate for the post of OIC secretary-general and lift international sanctions against the Turkish Cypriot enclave when OIC foreign ministers meet in Istanbul beginning on Monday. Ankara also expects the OIC to upgrade the position of the 'TRNC' to that of a 'Turkish Cypriot State' within the organization. Foreign ministers of 57 Islamic countries will attend the three-day summit. Observers expect Saudi Arabia and Egypt to voice opposition to the Greater Middle East initiative. Iraq's neighbors will hold a meeting within the summit framework. UN Special Representative Lakhdar Brahimi will also attend this session.

Cyprus: In a meeting in Istanbul last week, PM Erdogan and 'TRNC PM' Talat discussed a symbolic withdrawal of 5,000 Turkish troops from Cyprus in an effort to remove the remaining obstacles to Ankara's attempt to obtain a date from the EU for entry talks, "Milliyet" reports. EU enlargement chief Verhogen told Talat that EU regulations did not allow direct trade with the Turkish Cypriot enclave, weekend papers report. However, Verheugen said the EU will grant 259 million euros in aid to the Turkish Cypriots and work to improve regulations concerning the buffer zone in the island.

EDITORIAL OPINION:

- a) G-8 Summit/BMENAI
- b) US-Turkey-EU

"Don't disparage the importance of this partnership" Yasemin Congar wrote in the mass appeal Milliyet (6/14): "The participation of Turkey in the G-8 summit was an important achievement for Turkish diplomacy. PM Erdogan's messages about the Middle East and the Broader Middle East and North Africa Initiative (BMENAI) included very valuable assessments and warnings. All of these concerns were reflected in the final G-8 documents. Turkey also was named as a co-chair for the 'Democratic Assistance Dialogue' group along with Italy and Yemen. This led some to comment that Turkey was beginning to turn away from its EU vision. On the contrary, taking part in such a mechanism will be an important step to enhance Turkey's ties with the EU. American officials attach great importance to the working dialogue between Turkey's PM and the King of Jordan, which went even beyond the Sea Island meetings. There is also great optimism that the Turkish business community and Turkish NGOs will cooperate successfully in the region to promote economic, social and political reform."

"BMENAI is a project for occupying the region" Erol Manisali argued in the social democrat Cumhuriyet (6/14): "Whether it is the GME or the BMENAI, the project provides clear goals for both the US and the EU. In short, the goal of the initiative is to control the region politically, culturally, economically and militarily. Pro-Western regimes will be established and, from an economic point of view, they will do whatever the US and EU request. American and western capital would then be able to monopolize the entire region. This is what the BMENAI is all about. Democracy is a sheer lie to cover up its real aims, which are fascist. . In order to achieve the goals, the western world is now engaged in a vicious game. It is using Israel, Armenia, Georgia and the Kurds against the Muslim peoples. There are strong indications to prove this kind of plot. Therefore, it is impossible to understand the decision of the Turkish government to be a part of the GME. Turkey's participation in such a plan which is designed to occupy the region will achieve nothing, except perhaps to bring Turkey to the brink of civil war."

"The Ball is in the EU's court" Semih Idiz opined in the mass appeal Aksam (6/14): "In the past, Turkey has missed many EU trains. Strategic mistakes, especially during the time of PM Ecevit and President Demirel, have become part of our history. History will also register the train we missed at the 2002 Copenhagen summit because of Denktas' intransigence. As a result of this mistake, Greek Cyprus has now entered the EU on its own. But recently, under the leadership of PM Erdogan, Turkey is fulfilling all of the criteria the EU has established. If

the EU still blocks Turkey's accession, the impact will be very negative for the EU. Therefore, let us continue to do what is necessary. But at this point, the ball is really in the EU's court."

EDELMAN